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NSC BRIEFING

16 April 1959

IRAQ--BACKGROUND

ANTI-US AND ANTI BRITISH ACTIONS BY QASIM GOVERNMENT SINCE 14 JULY 1958

1. Consulates in Kirkuk and Mosul closed.
2. De facto repudiation of agreement with US for military advisory group; MAAG personnel left to cool heels for more than six months.
3. USIS facilities closed.
4. Protracted campaign to force out US Point 4 technicians from advisory posts in Iraqi ministries.
5. Several US and UK missionaries ordered to leave.
6. Expropriation of US missionary hospital at Amara; American staff ordered to leave.
7. Blaming of American "agents" for major Baghdad oil fire last August; arrest and detention for two days of two Embassy marine guards picked up in vicinity.
8. Subsequent "provocation" attempt to implicate Point 4 public relations advisor in "assassination plot" against Qasim.
9. "Purge committees" set up to weed out Americans at Baghdad refinery.
10. American refinery manager harassed until he resigned in Dec 1958; new American manager seeking job in US as result of continued firing of American personnel.
11. Contract with American consulting firm Tippetts, Abbett, McCarthy & Stratton Engineers, Inc. cancelled; company's bank account frozen, office and warehouse seized.

DOCUMENT NO. 10
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
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12. US foreman at Derbindi Khan Dam site brutally beaten by natives.

13. 20 British personnel engaged in dredging operations at port of Fao discharged. Morrisen Knutson-American firm refuses contract at Fao because of impossible government restrictions.

14. Hills Brothers, subsidiary of National Biscuit Company, reducing operations sharply in Basra area because of labor troubles.

15. Mac Andrews Forbes, an American firm exporting licorice in Basra, forced to re-instate 10 employees discharged as surplus.

16. D. & C. and Willian Press Ltd. (British) forced to leave Jalawla-Derbendi-Khan highway project.

17. CAT (Lebanese firm, partly British-owned) forced to leave country.

18. Caterpillar Tractor Company representative closely shadowed by Iraq.

19. Local Pan American manager refused permission to return to Baghdad.

20. Termination of contracts of most members of British Air Force training mission.

21. British ordered to evacuate Habbinaya air base.

22. Press and many public officials blame US, along with UAR, for plotting Mosul rebellion; Qasim, knowing better, lets these allegations go unchallenged.

23. Violent demonstrations against Rountree visit and stoning of his car.

24. Halts and searches by Popular Resistance Force of US and UK official and private cars.

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25. Arrests of several Iraqi employees of US embassy.

26. New "security controls" and recurrent surveillance of American staff of Embassy.

27. American education technician of Point 4 Program jailed overnight, interrogated and ordered to leave on charge of being "spy and saboteur."

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